

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 IGA-01 PM-04 SP-02

DODE-00 H-02 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/OMA:BGCROWE:DLS

APPROVED BY EB/IFD/OMA:RJRYAN

L/NEA:KHUFFMAN

L/EB:SBOND

NEA/IRN:CNAAS

E:RPOATS

TREASURY:PBLYBERG

S/S:APSHANKLE

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O 152318Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 245329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 16 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA-
IRAN LEND-LEASE DEBT

REF: A) TEHRAN 10056, B) TEHRAN 9751, C) STATE 234932,
D) TEHRAN A-192

DELIVER TO AMBASSADOR OPENING OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 16

1. DURING YOUR MEETING WITH HOVEYDA OCTOBER 16 YOU SHOULD
INDICATE THAT WE WELCOME FORWARD MOVEMENT ON LEND-LEASE
DEBT INDICATED IN REFTEL A.

2. THESE AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH IRANIANS SHOULD,
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HOWEVER, CONTINUE ENCOURAGE FULL SETTLEMENT OF DEBT IN THE

NEAR FUTURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU MAY WISH TO STRESS SERIOUS CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN AT THE ARREARAGE, AND FACT IRAN HAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE LEND-LEASE DEBT CONSTITUTES AN ESTABLISHED AND FULLY DOCUMENTED OBLIGATION.

3. IF THE ISSUE OF IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIMS ARISES, YOU SHOULD NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) WE BELIEVE THE DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED TO DATE, WHICH

WE ARE STUDYING THOROUGHLY, CONSTITUTES AN INADEQUATE LEGAL ARGUMENT. WE REMAIN OPEN HOWEVER TO CONSIDER ANY ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE IRAN WISHES TO PUT FORWARD;

(B) WE WILL FORWARD AN OFFICIAL USG REPLY TO THE DOCUMENTATION (SUBMITTED IN REFTEL D) NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 31.

4. FYI: WE BELIEVE IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIM TO BE UNSUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE PROVIDED. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE COUNTERCLAIM WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS VALID BY U.S., AND DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING THE AMOUNT OF THE COUNTERCLAIM WOULD NO DOUBT BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO ESTABLISH. WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO ASSURE THE GOI THAT USG HAS TAKEN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTERCLAIM SERIOUSLY, AND THAT WE HAVE GIVEN IT FULL AND ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION. WE ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF ADVISING GOI THAT WE ARE WILLING TO SEND A SMALL TEAM OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO TEHRAN TO DISCUSS OUR LEGAL FINDINGS. THIS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH GOI AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS AS TO WHETHER THIS IS DESIRABLE.

WE WOULD WISH AT ALL COSTS TO AVOID GOI CONSTRUING POSSIBLE TECHNICAL EXPERT VISIT AS INDICATION THAT FAVORABLE USG ACTION LIKELY. WE ALSO WISH TO AVOID HAVING VISIT ESTABLISH A LEGAL OR FACTUAL CONNECTION BETWEEN PAYMENT OF THE LEND-LEASE DEBT AND FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE GOI COUNTERCLAIM. YOUR VIEWS AS TO WHETHER SUCH ACTION BY USG WOULD LEAD TO THESE RESULTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END FYI.

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5. CONGRESSIONAL DEBT HEARINGS WERE SET FOR OCTOBER 23 BUT HAVE BEEN POSTPONED (PROBABLY UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER) AT REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT. WE HOPE DELAY WILL PERMIT MORE FAVORABLE REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IRANIAN DEBT ISSUE. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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